

and inability to control Palestinian and Lebanese militants who have begrudged her Western culture and delicate ethnic and religious balance.

How frustrating that despite Israel's sacrificial Gaza disengagement a year ago as well as the departure from southern Lebanon in 2000, with plans for the further withdrawal from the West Bank to create a Palestinian state, its adversaries refuse to respond in kind. Reestablishing a deteriorated deterrence posture is a must for Israel's security. Recently elected Israeli Premier Ehud Olmert is undergoing his first major test by fire, literally, filling in the big shoes of his incapacitated predecessor Ariel Sharon. Sharon, the daring leader in war and peace, would approve Olmert's conduct that is supported by a united political front, so otherwise rare, testimony to Israel's resolve to again prevail. A determined Jewish state has no plans to leave its bad neighborhood, and it may yet help transforming it with its essential American partner. May children on both sides of Israel's borders soon be able to freely play and sleep at peace.

Rabbi Israel Zoberman, spiritual leader of Congregation of Beth Chaverim in Virginia Beach, grew up in Haifa, Israel.

HONORING THE AMERICAN LEGION POST 71 FOR 86 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 24, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today so that I may honor the American Legion Post 71 of Denton, Texas as they celebrate their 86th Anniversary. For close to a century, the American Legion Post and its members have selflessly served thousands of veterans and their families throughout North Texas.

The American Legion, holding a 3 million part membership nationally, was chartered by Congress in the aftermath of World War I as a "patriotic, mutual-help, war-time veterans' organization." Since its establishment, the American Legion has sworn "to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the Great Wars;" to promote service and to harvest a healthy sense of community. Today there are over 15,000 posts world-wide.

In celebration of their 86th Anniversary, Post 71 will honor the family of Ernest Dallas Jr., a Denton Veteran of the Iraq War, with a "Fallen Heroes Memorial Plaque."

Mr. Speaker, I applaud American Legion Post 71 for their honorable service to our nation and our heroes. I also recognize one of those heroes, Ernest Dallas Jr., who lost his life in Iraq not more than a year ago. Our nation truly owes a debt of gratitude to him and our other fallen soldiers for their admirable and unyielding service to our nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 24, 2006

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, on July 13, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote No. 374.

Rollcall vote No. 374 was on final passage of H.R. 9, the Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks, and Coretta Scott King Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act. Had I been present, I would have voted, "yea."

This is an important piece of legislation that I hope to see pass through the Senate, signed by the President and enacted.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 24, 2006

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on July 20, 2006 and missed Rollcall vote 393. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" for 393.

CONDEMNING THE RECENT ATTACKS AGAINST THE STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2006

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 921, condemning the provocations by terrorist organizations on Israel's northern and southern borders.

The actions of the terrorist organizations, Hezbollah, in Lebanon, and Hamas, in Gaza, against Israel are unconscionable. Instead of working towards peace, these terrorist organizations have chosen to perpetuate the violence. Unprovoked attacks on Israel's borders, murdering Israeli soldiers, taking Israeli hostages and showering rockets targeting and killing Israeli civilians are not furthering any legitimate goal.

I am pleased to see that many of the world's leaders have publicly recognized that the crisis in the Middle East was deliberately incited by terrorist organizations. I applaud the leaders of the world's top industrial nations' collaborative statement on July 16 condemning the terrorists: "These extremist elements and those that support them cannot be allowed to plunge the Middle East into chaos and provoke a wider conflict. The extremists must immediately halt their attacks."

I also congratulate the Arab nations, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Jordan for their willingness to openly criticize Hezbollah's attacks on Israel's northern border. I am in full support of their efforts to speak out against Hezbollah's recent assaults against Israel.

Israel's actions over the past week must be viewed in a broader context. It should be recognized that in response to Israel's unilateral

withdrawal from Southern Lebanon in 2000 and from Gaza in 2005, as well as its committed plan to pull out completely from the West Bank, Israel has met only violence. Since 2000, Hezbollah has fired hundreds of rockets at civilian areas and kidnapped and murdered Israeli soldiers. Since September 2005, terrorist groups in Gaza have launched over 1,000 rocket attacks at Israeli cities. Previously, Israel exhibited restraint and refused to respond to these aggressions with any significant counterattack. Now, in light of the current unprovoked kidnappings by Hamas and Hezbollah, Israel is warranted to act appropriately to free the captured soldiers and to defend her citizens.

Now is the time for the Lebanese Government to abide by the U.N.'s rules. In refusing to disarm Hezbollah as required by U.N. Resolution 1559, the Lebanese Government is choosing to openly ignore the decree of the international community. Lebanese Prime Minister Fouad Siniora should accept responsibility and take immediate action against the terrorist group which Lebanon harbors. I support the resolutions that call on the United Nations to help the Prime Minister and his government to achieve these goals.

Now is also the time for the Hamas government to accept accountability for the actions of its terrorist organization. As the elected government of the Palestinian people, they have a duty to tell the terrorists to release the soldier they captured, halt the relentless rocket fire aimed at Israeli civilians and end their encouragement of terrorist acts against Israel.

But neither the Palestinian nor the Lebanese Government are wholly responsible for these recent provocations against Israel. There is a much greater strategic dimension to the Hamas-Hezbollah offensive. The terrorist organizations, Hezbollah and Hamas, are unquestionably sponsored and guided by the Iranian and Syrian Governments.

Iranian and Syrian support of these attacks will not be rewarded. The current bloodshed of innocent Israeli and Lebanese civilians will not strengthen their governments' positions. As sponsors of terror they will be condemned and held accountable for their actions.

Israel must have the right to defend her civilians from ongoing missile attacks, whether they arise from Lebanon or the Gaza Strip. Like the United States and other sovereign nations, Israel is justified in reestablishing its deterrent posture.

FANNIE LOU HAMER, ROSA PARKS, AND CORETTA SCOTT KING VOTING RIGHTS ACT REAUTHORIZATION AND AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 9) to amend the Voting Rights Act of 1965:

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks, and Coretta Scott King Voting Rights Act (H.R. 9). I am a proud co-